

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Higher Education and its Principal Mission: Preparing Students for Life, Work, and Civic Engagement

11th International Workshop on Higher Education Reform

August 25 to 27, 2014, Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland (Canada)

As part of the ongoing discussion about changes in Higher Education (HE) and HE reform, the Workshop will focus on issues concerning the most important target group and resource of HE: Students.

WORKSHOP THEMES

Presentations are invited, and discussions will primarily focus, on themes related to reforms and innovations regarding accessibility and affordability of post-secondary studies, conditions and modes of learning, the transition from study to work, and, for adult students, the integration of higher education with other aspects of their professional, personal and civic life. As the relationship between HE and labor markets and employment systems is changing and the borders of HE expanding, there are many new institutional innovations, programs, forms of learning, and transition mechanisms and routes both into HE, from HE to the world of work, as well as from employment and domestic and civic duties back into HE.

Among the recent changes in the direction of HE and its environment the following questions appear to be of particular importance:

- In spite of the massive growth and increasing differentiation of HE systems, which have led in some countries to “massification” and even “universalization,” there is still unsatisfied and growing demand for HE in many countries. In particular, as there are still significant differences between participation in HE by students from higher and lower income households, are there policies aimed at reducing these?

- In some countries, as participation especially from indigenous populations and other ethnic minorities is far below that of the ethnic majority, what are the policies in place as well as reform policies aiming at greater equality of participation?

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- Under the reign of increasing globalization of markets, to what extent is higher education in danger of being reduced to a 'service' with consequences such as expanding international competition, privatization, marketization and commercialization?

- As HE 'trade fairs', university 'branding', and major efforts at 'recruiting' international students have increased the flow of international students across national borders, mainly to developed countries. Has this led to changes in the structures of studies with a view to international recognition and portability of degrees? Are there specific policies and institutional practices in place aimed at improving the conditions of international students' learning and the quality of their experience of studying abroad?

- As tuition fees have massively increased in most countries while public budgets have been cut in the wake of the international financial crisis, HE institutions, especially universities, have been forced to look for additional resources from students and their families - with concomitant shifts in the status of students from 'learners' to 'consumers'. As a consequence of the rise in tuition fees, many graduates are deeply in debt when they graduate. Is there evidence for an impact of this development on potential students who may be discouraged from taking up studies, especially those from economically disadvantaged families?

- A growing number of highly ranked universities are offering "massive open online courses" (MOOCs), thereby increasing opportunities for online learning and private, individual study. This development is expected to have a significant impact on traditional campus- and classroom-based programs. To what extent will campus-based university education, until now the norm, be reserved for a minority of students from well-to-do backgrounds whereas the majority will (have to) learn mostly or exclusively on-line, independently or in virtual classrooms and learning networks?

- As many politicians and employers request increased work-related competences and 'employability skills' of HE graduates, should there be changes in HE programs and curricula in response to these demands? What are the changes in response to this pressure, already made or planned?

- Are there innovations in curricula, teaching and learning modes, and graduation requirements that emphasize engagement with society in general and the local community in particular (for example, through 'service learning')?

- Over the last decades, what has been the role of students and student unions in the reform and modernization of higher education?

As did the previous workshops, the 2014 workshop will give an opportunity for comparative analysis and discussion of these and related issues. Proceedings and a selection of papers and panel presentations will be published upon the completion of the Workshop.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

The Workshop will be hosted and organized by the Fisheries and Marine Institute of Memorial University at St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, in partnership with the Memorial's Faculty of Education.

Located on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, the Fisheries and Marine Institute is Canada's most comprehensive centre for education, training, applied research and industrial support for the ocean industries, offering more than 20 industry-driven programs ranging from technical certificates to master's degrees.

The Faculty of Education offers undergraduate and graduate level Post-Secondary Studies (Higher Education) programs, designed to prepare students for a variety of instructional and leadership roles in informal and formal post-secondary education, including careers in academic, adult, community, technical and trades, and professional education.

The Workshop is co-sponsored by the Higher Education Special Interest Group of the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES); the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education (CSSHE); the International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS); and the Centre for Policy Studies in Higher Education and Training of the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Canada.

This International Workshop on University Reform will bring together researchers and policy analysts and policy makers. Ten previous workshops have taken place in Vancouver (hosted by The University of British Columbia), Vienna (University of Klagenfurt), Tokyo (University of Tsukuba), Dublin (Dublin City University), Shanghai (East China Normal University), Mexico City (Center for Research and Advanced Studies - Department of Educational Research), Berlin (Humboldt University), Pittsburgh (University of Pittsburgh), and Ljubljana, Slovenia (University of Ljubljana).

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Local and National Organization Committee

Robert Shea, professor of HE and Associate Vice President (Academic and Student Affairs), Fisheries and Marine Institute, Memorial University, <https://www.mi.mun.ca/> (**Workshop Coordinator**);

Angie Clarke, Director of Student Affairs, Fisheries and Marine Institute, Memorial University and doctoral candidate in Higher Education Leadership at the University of Calgary;

Walter Archer, President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Higher Education. University of Alberta, Canada.

International Advisory Committee

Germán Alvarez Mendiola, Centre of Educational Research and Studies, Mexico City; Mexico;

Mei Li, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China;

Hans G. Schuetze, University of British Columbia at Vancouver, Canada;

Maria Slowey, Higher Education Research Centre, Dublin City University, Ireland;

Andrä Wolter, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany;

Shinichi Yamamoto, Oberlin University, Tokyo, Japan;

Pavel Zgaga, Center for Educational Policy Studies, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR PAPERS AND PANELS

Papers and panels that address the above-mentioned and related themes are invited. Proposals for individual papers should not exceed 400 words, those for panels not 800 words in length.

Proposals should be submitted to the Organizing Committee **before or on May 2nd, 2014.**

Submissions can be made to [**HER2014@mi.mun.ca**](mailto:HER2014@mi.mun.ca).

Details concerning communication, registration, accommodation, and the program can be found at the workshop website: <http://www.her2014.ca/>